

Prior law authorized the department to let contracts to persons for the construction, ownership, maintenance, and operation of bridges constructed according to the department's standard of safety. Furthermore, the department was not required to approve the plans and specifications submitted for the contract of construction, ownership, and operation except to the extent of public safety.

Prior law prohibited the state from interfering in the maintenance or operation of any bridge which remained the property of the contractor, except as necessary for public safety or to compel compliance with the contract between the contractor and the department.

Prior law authorized the department to acquire the completed bridge from the owner upon terms and conditions agreed between the parties. Prior to the purchase of the bridge, the terms and conditions of the purchase were required to be submitted to the legislature in session by a majority vote of the members elected to both houses.

Prior law prohibited the use of general highway funds for the purchase of any such bridges.

Prior law declared every public service toll bridge or toll road was a public utility and every person owning or operating such a bridge or road was a common carrier and thus subject to the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, including rules and regulations regarding rates, fares, schedules, continuity of service, and the convenience and safety of passengers, freight, the public, and vehicles passing over the bridge or road.

New law repeals prior law.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Repeals R.S. 48:781-786 and 801-805)